

ARTILLERY FIRE CHECKS GERMAN PROGRESS PERSHING OFFERS HIS ARMY

part of the Allies, resulting in important successes, particularly in the region of Montdidier.

The more cheerful feeling was nowhere more evident than in the lobby of the Chamber of Deputies. Premier Clemenceau looked in there for a few minutes between two trips to the front. "I slept last night, and I was well," said the Premier. "I had not done that for some time."

The Germans are employing a new method of attack, the most conspicuous feature of which is the use of smoke camouflage, under cover of which successive waves of attacking forces advance in echelon. After a short and intense artillery preparation, the first wave, armed with automatic rifles, machine guns and new cannon mounted on low carriages for short range fire, is sent forward, firing at a range of 500 yards.

It is ordered to fire on the reserve, regardless of the opposing forces right at hand, which the succeeding waves must account for. The task of the leading troops is to increase the advantage of surprise by preventing paralyzing counter attacks on the part of the reserve.

The second wave then passes ahead, to be followed by the third, and so on. Thus the opposing forces have succeeded one another during the nine days of the great conflict.

WASHINGTON HOPEFUL.

Thinks Counter Blows Will Halt Advance on Amiens.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Renewed indications of a strong counter attack by the French against the German wedge between Noyon and Lassigny and concentrated German thrusts against the British near Hamel were the features of the latest reports of the battle, the opinion of General Staff officers here.

There is a hopeful feeling that the effect of the French pressure will exert its influence before the Germans are able to back their way nearer to Amiens. The stiffening British resistance against superior numbers continues to excite admiration.

Major-General March referred to-day at his afternoon conference with the newspaper men to the brilliancy of the French counter attack on the Noyon-Lassigny line. Reports from both Major-General March and Major-General Pershing, Chief of Staff, and Gen. Pershing, have led to the conclusion that the French attack has been particularly brilliant and effective. For the French to be able to strike back at the powerful German forces and drive them back two miles, after a stretch of nearly seven miles, impressed Gen. March as a military feat of particular brilliancy.

Gen. March asked the public through the press to be indulgent and patient while awaiting news concerning American participation in the fighting. He said it was undoubtedly a matter of details and pointed out that the British War Office has been unable to get them. The cable messages, Gen. March said, were severely censored and this meant additional delay. Besides, he explained, all the official Government messages had to be decoded and this took time.

"And I would add," Gen. March added, "that there is no holding back information concerning reports of American participation. When it comes up, we will get it."

LINE HOLDS, BLISS SAYS.

Cables Create Optimism Among Congressmen.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Optimism that the allied armies will overcome the great German offensive prevailed in the House Committee on Military Affairs today after a conference at the War Department with officials of the War Council. Major-General March, Acting Chief of Staff, read to House members the latest official reports from the front expressing confidence in an allied victory.

"We are holding the line everywhere," is reported to have been the substance of one of the telegrams received by Gen. Bliss, Chief of Staff, which is now abroad.

The spirit of the committee were appreciably raised by the War Department conference. One of the House members said:

"The Acting Chief of Staff read to us a telegram saying that the allies were holding their lines in spite of the desperate efforts of the Central Powers to force them back. The general tone of the cablegrams was that the allies were bound to win and ultimately will crush the Prussian forces. The cables gave assurance that the Allied forces will strike effectively at the proper time. The French and English appear to have controlled the situation south of the Somme and the English appear to be in complete control of the plan of defense. The British and American troops have been reported in the battle line."

NEW BLOW COMING.

Will Strike Another Part of Front, Says Berlin Paper.

AMSTERDAM, March 29.—The German supreme command is about to deliver a new and mighty blow on another part of the front, which will "tear a hole in the already pierced enemy ring," the *Vossische Zeitung* of Berlin declares.

The semi-official *North German Gazette* of Berlin says the German offensive is being launched in the region of the Vosges. The British soldier defended himself heroically. His batteries fired until our rifles overcame the enemy, scattering the guns. His infantry stood their ground firmly and engaged in hand to hand fighting. Not only was every fortified position and every trench and every railway embankment defended with the greatest stubbornness, but British brave mercenaries even nestled in the last crumbling places.

"But all this bravely only contributed to increase the enemy's losses. Truly our opponent has not made victory easy for our troops. The German offensive immediately assembled for counter thrusts wherever an opportunity appeared favorable. Even the cavalry threw themselves into the fray and against our storming battalions to prevent them from breaking through, but all in vain."

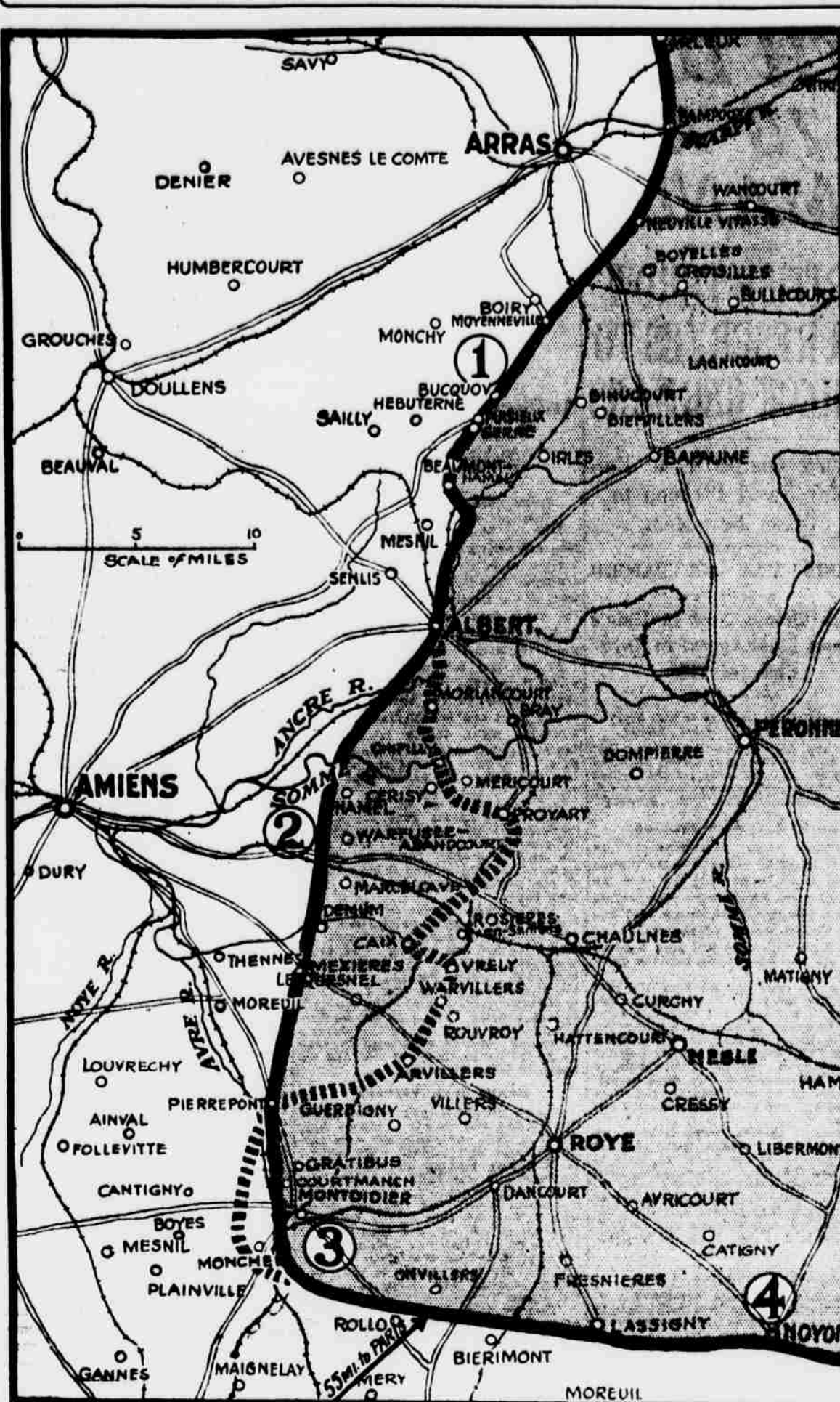
"TAGEBLATT" EDITORS RESIGN.

Owner to Conduct Philadelphia Paper in Interest of U. S.

PHILADELPHIA, March 29.—Dr. Morris Darrow and Louis Werner, editors of the *Tageblatt*, a German language daily newspaper, who were on Tuesday acquitted in the United States court here of the charge of treason, have resigned their positions. Circumstances for which they were alleged to be responsible were printed in the paper and led to their arrest. They and three others connected with the paper are to be tried under the espionage law in June.

C. J. Heimig, principal owner of the *Tageblatt*, has been charged with the property. He said to-day that he had no desire to see a representative of the Kaiser installed in the White House, and would see to it that his newspaper is conducted in the interest of the United States from now on.

Where the German Drive Has Been Practically Halted



The German advance into France has been stopped, for the moment at least, on the line here shown, although fighting still continues here and there along the great battle front, which now is about seventy miles long. In the north heavy attacks were made against the British between Boiry and Serre (1) with out material gains. Still larger forces were thrown into action a little further south, driving the British back to the line running through Hamel, Warfuss, Abancourt, and Marcelcave (2). At the point where the Germans attained their greatest penetration, thirty-seven miles, west of Montdidier, the French are not only holding them but are slowly pushing them back, recapturing the village of Monchel (3). The counter attack of the French on the southern side of the salient (4) is reported to be progressing in a satisfactory manner.

RETREAT MADE ON PREARRANGED PLAN

German Preparations Known to Allies, Maj.-Gen. Bell Tells Senators.

Tells Senators.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The British withdrawal before the German advance was made according to prearranged plans and is "all over now," Major-General Franklin Bell to-day told the Senate Military Committee. He said the Allies have known of the German preparations for the present drive since soon after they were begun and made active preparations to face it. Gen. Bell recently returned from the battle front.

Gen. Bell was called by the Senate Military Committee to inform the members regarding conditions on the battle front. He said the German Generals recently were quoted as saying that two months' preparations were necessary for the present drive.

"I don't doubt that it might have taken longer," he declared.

"But should that go into the record?" asked Chairman Chamberlain.

"That's all right; it's all over now," said the General.

Explains War Methods.

Gen. Bell explained some of the scientific means used by a modern army to defeat the enemy. He said that the German Generals were doing everything in the way of establishing schools back of the American lines in order to train him in the use of such methods.

"The most advanced trench is never held in times of a serious attack," he explained by Gen. Bell, who said that it is principally used for look-out purposes.

Gen. Bell said that so far as he knew Pershing's command is fully equipped. "I think there has been some apprehension concerning certain equipment," he said. "At the beginning of our entrance into the war the French Government agreed to furnish certain field artillery and since then they have furnished certain other equipment by agreement."

There was a shortage of horses at first and later there was a need for motor trucks, Major-General Bell said, but the shortages have been met.

The highest praise of the American morale in France was given by Gen. Bell. The closer to the front line trenches the greater is the morale, he

Clemenceau Declares

Foe Cannot Break Line

PARIS, March 29.—"The enemy will not conquer our resistance," said Premier Clemenceau when surrounded by deputies at the Bourbon Palace upon his return from the front this afternoon. "I do not wish to pose as a prophet. That is not my habit, but, come what may, they will not break through."

Anecdotes showing the wonderful morale of the French troops were related by the Premier. A battalion of territorial troops, arriving at the front line yesterday, were found awaiting the order for a counter attack sitting unconcernedly in a mud field within range of the German shells, which were breaking in the immediate vicinity.

"What are you doing here?" said M. Clemenceau.

"We are at rest," responded a soldier quietly.

said, adding that the only pessimism he heard while at the front came from non-combatant military men back of the front line trenches and from a few civilians, some of them newspaper men.

Praises German Staff.

Gen. Bell said that an important factor in efficiency and that in his judgment the average man begins to deteriorate in military efficiency after he passes 50. He pronounced the German general staff as the "best in the world," and which included many valuable original orders and documents for the use of the public and of military students.

The work, it is stated, will dissect such battles as Tannenberg, showing the derivation of the strategy and tactics and the means employed for the final victory. It is somewhat of an ambitious undertaking, which has a obvious value to the army and navy.

GEN. GLENN IS CONFIDENT.

Obtains Back From France, Believes Allies Will Win.

Major-General Edwin F. Glenn, commanding at Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio, who has been studying war on the French front, arrived at an American port yesterday on an American steamship, confident that the Allies would hold and eventually repulse the Germans in the present great battle.

He said that when he left Gen. Pershing's men they were in finer shape than he had ever seen a body of American troops and that with the French and English they would be equal to any emergency.

U. S. ARMY STAFF TO WRITE WAR HISTORY

Compilation to Deal With Actions on All Fronts.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—A special committee of the General Staff of the United States Army has been designated to write a history of the world war. The officers selected for the work are picked for their technical and literary ability and they will review all the operations in all the fields of action.

The work will be designed mainly for the education and reference of officers. The most elaborate works of the kind hitherto known have come from the German General Staff, which reviewed in detail the Japanese-Russian war and the Franco-Russian war of 1870.

The United States work of the kind attempted in this country was the *War of the Rebellion*, which was published by the Government in many volumes, and which included many valuable original orders and documents for the use of the public and of military students.

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CAUCASUS O. K.'S PEACE TREATY

Autonomy for Armenia Provided in Compact With Turks.

LONDON, March 29.—The Caucasus Diet, after proclaiming the independence of the country, has approved the basis of a separate peace agreement with Turkey. Reuters' Petrograd correspondent reports.

The agreement is said to provide autonomy for Armenia and reestablishment of the frontiers as they were before the war.

BRINGS COMMERCIAL REPORT.

U. S. Attache in Paris Sails for America.

PARIS, March 29.—Charles W. Vande, commercial attaché of the American Embassy, has sailed from a French port for the United States with a report on the commercial situation between France and America. He goes as the representative of the Franco-American Society for the Adoption of French Towns, and also carries with him the official certificates of American aviators who have died for France.

High School for Blind Hospital.

Jersey City officials were aroused yesterday over the report, the source of which was not revealed, that the Government is considering turning the William L. Dickinson High School, at Palisade, into a Newark avenue, into a base hospital.

ARTILLERY CHECKS GERMAN PROGRESS

Destruction of Aircraft Also Robs Enemy of Advantage Previously Enjoyed.

FORCE OF ATTACK SPENT

At the Outset 38 Divisions Were Hurlled Against Eight British Divisions.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, March 29 (delayed).—The great German effort appears to have exhausted itself in many places along the front of attack the enemy is being driven back and at others the French and British are offering firm resistance. Infantry fighting has begun to give place to artillery battles and in the next few days the guns may be expected to speak loudly. In this respect the British and French have the advantage, inasmuch as the Germans have been unable to drag much artillery with them. They are engaged in establishing themselves in the positions to which they have advanced but have not had time thoroughly to organize their defenses.

The main portion of to-day's fighting was around the northern sector of the battle front, where both the French and the British had a successful day, counter attacking with great vigor where the Germans threatened to push most deeply into their lines. At present the front is more uneven. During the first rush the Germans succeeded at some places in indenting the lines so that here and there were formed pockets, which sooner or later must be straightened out.

38 Divisions Against 8.

Further details concerning the first part of the battle show that no fewer than thirty-eight German divisions were thrown simultaneously against a front held by only eight British divisions, overwhelming them and forcing them back. Behind the British divisions were three others in reserve, but the troops fought valiantly and delayed the German advance for a considerable time.

Since then the British and other German divisions have been hurled into the battle (a total of eighty-seven divisions, or at the present estimated strength of the German division about 1,000,000 men).

Not only the army of the Bavarian Crown Prince but also that of the German Crown Prince is now engaged. The German Generals immediately commanding the troops from the north to the south of the front attacked are Von Below, Von Marwitz and Von Hutler. The attack of the German forces was the French along the Oise. It is very quiet to-day after the bloody defeat of its attempt to cross the river. Most of the bridges have now been blown up.

The fighting has been much more severe in the sectors of Von Below and Von Marwitz. It is evident the Allies are gaining the upper hand and mastering the enemy with artillery.

Owing to the terrible casualties among his aviators the enemy is compelled to send almost half of his fighters to the allied lines, which he has been seeking constantly so as to throw against them some of his dense masses. When the German Generals saw that the British were holding the position fell back, absolutely exhausted, and the Germans crossed over a bridge of piled up bodies of their own comrades.

The German advance has been more rapid at some points, and the Allies have scarcely had time to get away their guns, as no horses were near. One French battery of 75s was dragged five miles with ropes by the gunners, who succeeded in saving it.

Dead Stripped of Clothing.

A German prisoner who was interrogated to-day said the German troops were greatly surprised at the small number of British dead found on the battlefield. "The British had lost the British force in front of them had been annihilated. It was evident small groups had fought gamely to the last, giving the Germans a tremendous loss of lives and equipment."

The same prisoner said the Germans had formed a special corps whose duties were to advance behind the fighting troops and strip all clothing from the dead. The bodies, he said, were buried without any covering, and the clothing found on the battlefield was sent to the rear.

Reports from other parts of the front seem to indicate that elsewhere the line is being held by mediocre divisions. The German divisions which have been identified by the British from the Russian front have been classified as effective. Among them are three of the famous Guard Divisions and some of Bavaria's.

NEARLY BREAKS LAW HE HELPED FRAME

Kitchin Has to Rush His Income Tax Return.

SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Representative Charles Kitchin, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, in whose name the income tax bill was introduced originally, almost forgot to make out his tax before the day of penalty, and he is now in a hurry to get it done. Mr. Kitchin, who resides in North Carolina, mailed his return to-day and thereby got under the wire just in time.

The Democratic floor leader admits he might have forgotten this little detail altogether if it had not been for Representative Carter Glass. Mr. Kitchin had to go to his home in Lynchburg to obtain data to fill in his return.

By George. "I said Kitchin, 'I had forgotten all about it, and I believed I was the law too. I'm just in time.'"

Whereupon the author of the income tax law hurried to the office of the sergeant at arms, obtained a blank and spent several hours figuring his income as a lawyer, banker, farmer and legislator.

Masonic Flag Has 260 Stars.

A service flag bearing 260 stars will be presented to the Masonic Club at its concert in Masonic Hall to-night.

Text of Official Statements

LONDON, March 29.—Following are the official reports on the fighting in France:

BRITISH (NIGHT).—We gained ground at certain places. South of the Somme heavy hostile attacks developed during the morning in the neighborhood of Mezeres and Demum. Fighting is still going on in this sector.

In heavy fighting further south, between Boiry and Serre, which had no greater success, no fewer than eleven hostile divisions were identified.

BRITISH (AFTERNOON).—North of the Somme we maintained all our positions. No serious enemy attacks have been launched during the day.

South of the Somme there has been heavy fighting. Our troops have been pressed back to a line running west of Hamel, Marcelcave and Demum. On the French front south of Demum the French line runs through Mezeres, La Neuville-Sire-Bernard and Gratibus to just west of Montdidier. There has been further heavy fighting to-day on this line.

Between Montdidier and Lassigny the French counter offensive continues. Fresh French troops are arriving. East of Lassigny there is no change in the French line.

A captured German order shows that on March 21 the objective of an enemy division which attacked near St. Quentin was to be the Somme, near Hamel, a distance of at least eleven miles. Actually the division in question penetrated rather less than three miles.

BRITISH (DAY).—Further strong attacks were made by the enemy yesterday afternoon and evening at several points along the battle front. North of the Somme our troops have maintained their positions and have won ground in places by successful counter attacks. A number of prisoners and machine guns were captured by us in this fighting.

The enemy again suffered exceedingly heavy casualties. His frequent attacks, which were pressed with great determination throughout the day, gained only our outposts after several hours of severe hand to hand fighting. His reserves were then sent forward against our battle positions, and were everywhere thrown back with great loss. Our machine gun, artillery and rifle fire did great execution upon his ranks.

South of the Somme also heavy and continuous fighting took place until late in the evening. Our troops, after maintaining their line all day in the face of repeated assaults by superior enemy forces, have withdrawn a short distance from their advanced positions at some points.

FRENCH (NIGHT).—Along the battle front of the Oise there has been a notable diminution of fighting during the day. The offensive activity of the Germans was manifested only by local attacks on a few points along our front, which are being strengthened every day by the constant arrival of reinforcements. All these attacks were repulsed by our troops with losses for the assailants.

Behind our positions the French counter offensive continues. Fresh French troops are arriving. East of Lassigny there is no change in the French line.

FRENCH (DAY).—The battle was continued violently yesterday evening and part of the night in the region of Montdidier. Notwithstanding repeated counter attacks, the enemy was not able to eject the French from the villages which they captured yesterday. The French troops, following up their success, took possession of Monchel after a short fight.

In front of Ploeghe-Roye there has been violent fighting. All the German attacks against this village broke before the indomitable resistance of the French troops.

Statements obtained from prisoners confirm reports that the losses suffered by the Germans, without bringing them success, are extremely heavy. The number of corpses found in the vicinity of Montdidier and near Ploeghe-Roye is steadily increasing.

To the south of Montdidier French-British troops continue victoriously to hold the German on the line along the Aye River and in front of Neuville-Sire-Bernard, Mezeres, Marcelcave and Hamel.

Certain columns of German infantry and convoys, reported on the road between Laon and La Fere, were brought under the fire of our long range artillery and dispersed.

There has been notable artillery activity along the remainder of the front.

GERMAN (NIGHT).—

There have been successful engagements between the Somme and the Aye.

GERMAN (DAY).—In local engagements on both sides of the Somme we broke into the foremost English positions and took several thousand prisoners. Here and north of Albert the English continued their fruitless and costly counter attacks.

Between the Somme and the Aye we attacked again and drove out the enemy from old positions and from bravely defended villages in a westerly and northwesterly direction by way of Warfuss-Abancourt and Plessier.

The French repeatedly delivered violent counter attacks against some sectors of our new front between Montdidier and Noyon.

The booty which has been accumulated up to the present since the beginning of the battle amounts to 70,000 prisoners and 1,100 guns. Of these the army of Gen. von Hutler alone brought in 40,000 prisoners and 600 guns.

On the Lorraine front there has been increased artillery activity.

HYDE PARK CROWD AMERICAN KILLED

Prays for Victory IN BATTLE IN AIR

Thousands of Londoners Phelps Collins of Detroit

Stand in Drizzling Rain Drives Down German Be-

to Worship. fore He Is Hit.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, March 29.—Despite a bitter wind and drizzling rain many thousands of people stood for a long time to-day on the wet grass in the centre of Hyde Park to take part in the United Service (army and navy) ceremony in witness of the power of the cross to satisfy in the present time of stress and to pray for victory for the Allies.

On a platform built of wagons, fifty representatives from all the churches, from the Bishop of London to officers of the Salvation Army, stood bareheaded, outlined against the background of leafless trees, the white sleeves of the Bishops and the shining silks of the Salvation Army, forming a striking contrast against the black mass.

The Salvation Army band led the singing, while the principal speakers were the Bishop of London and John Shakespeare, secretary of the National Union. The gathering was memorable as the first joint meeting of all divisions of Christians.

CONFIDENCE IS URGED.

London Preachers Exhort People to Be steadfast.

LONDON, March 29.—The spirit of devotion pervaded England this Good Friday. Thoughts, of course, were centred on the battle in France, and the news of the critical fighting in the last few days gave a particular significance to the services which were held in all churches.

The preachers exhorted the congregations to face the immediate future with courage and confidence. St. Paul's and Westminster Cathedral and Westminster Abbey were crowded, notwithstanding the bright sunshine which in other years would have taken the people to the parks or country.

Queen Mary and Princess Mary attended the service at St. Paul's. The Bishop of Winchester preached. In the afternoon a great open air service was held in Hyde Park. The Bishop of London was one of the preachers.

PERSHING OFFERS U. S. ARMY TO FOCH

Tells French General American Seek Honor of Joining in Battle.

PARIS PRESS APPLAUDS

"La Liberté" Calls Action "Grand in Its Simplicity and of Moving Beauty."

PARIS, March 29.—Gen. Pershing called on Gen. Foch at headquarters yesterday, according to *L'Information*, and said at his disposal the whole resources of the American army for employment in the battle now in progress.

"I come," *L'Information* quotes Gen. Pershing as saying, "to say to you that the American people would hold it a great honor for our troops were they engaged in the present battle. I ask of you in my name and in that of the American people."

"There is at this moment no question that that of fighting. Infantry, artillery, aviation, all are ready and yours to dispose of them as you see fit. Others are coming which are as numerous as will be necessary. I have come to say to you that the American people would be proud to be engaged in the greatest battle in history."

Gen. Foch placed Gen. Pershing's offer before the council at the front. *L'Information* says. The council includes Premier Clemenceau, Commander in Chief Pétain and Louis Loucheur, Minister of Munitions.

The French press expresses itself freely in appreciation of Gen. Pershing's visit to Gen. Foch. *La Liberté* says: "Gen. Pershing yesterday told us that he was coming to the front to offer to the American army for employment in the battle now in progress."

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